

Office of the Mayor and City Council • 500 Castro Street • Post Office Box 7540 • Mountain View, California 94039-7540 650-903-6305 • FAX 650-903-6039

January 25, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Brown State Capitol Building, Suite 1173 Sacramento, CA 95814

RESETTING THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR CALTRAIN AND THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT ON THE SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA

### Dear Governor Brown:

The City of Mountain View is committed to working collaboratively to build better transportation solutions on the San Francisco Peninsula. We understand the desirability for cities on the Peninsula to reach general agreement on a transportation vision that will guide the Peninsula into the future.

By working together, we will have greater influence on how to improve both Caltrain and high-speed rail. We will attract more Federal and State funding, as well as private investment, when we agree upon the plan we have for transportation in our respective communities.

Now that preliminary high-speed rail funding has been designated for the Central Valley, we have the time to complete the planning process the right way.

- 1. An independent ridership study, which is essential to inform the scope of the design alternatives. For example, it may dictate whether we need two tracks or four tracks in some areas—options that have tremendous cost and design ramifications. This analysis is vital and we ask for it to be completed as quickly as possible.
- 2. An independent review of the budget and business plan for high-speed rail in California. Planning for this project must be grounded in reality and we ask for this independent review to be completed as quickly as possible.

- 3. An informed discussion among all relevant parties about the freight issues and opportunities on the Peninsula. Freight has environmental benefits for our communities, but there are design constraints that need to be resolved. We want an open dialogue directly with the freight operators and freight customers to develop solutions and build a consensus along the corridor.
- 4. A more thorough vetting of alternatives, with adequate analysis of impacts, before the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) goes forward. There must be agreement between our City and the California High-Speed Rail Authority on the final alternatives that are studied in the Draft EIR. There is no need to rush completion of the EIR, rather the document should be prepared with thorough analysis, adequate time for public comment and thoughtful and sensitive mitigations that will enhance the community. This document should be a viable plan that has the full support of our City.
- 5. A final plan that preserves and enhances the character of our community. The Caltrain corridor already bisects Mountain View and creates a barrier between the south and north parts of our City—a barrier that concerns our residents and that the City has been working to mitigate by building pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly connections. The currently proposed route of the High-Speed Rail in the Caltrain right-of-way will create an even more dramatic barrier in our community unless significantly mitigated. The character of our community must be an overriding consideration as part of the alternative analysis, environmental review process and engineering/urban design solutions for the high-speed rail project.

Sincerely,

Jac Sregel Jac Siegel Mayor

The Honorable Jerry Brown January 25, 2011 Page 3

cc: Peninsula Cities (South San Francisco, San Bruno, Millbrae, Burlingame, San Mateo, Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Atherton, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara and San Jose)

Mr. Roelof Van Ark, CEO, California High-Speed Rail Authority Board

Mr. Dominic Spaethling, Regional Manager, California High-Speed Rail Authority Board

Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board

Mr. Michael Scanlon, Executive Director, Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Board

City Council



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January 25, 2011

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 331 Washington, D.C. 20510

RESETTING THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR CALTRAIN AND THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT ON THE SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA

#### Dear Senator Feinstein:

The City of Mountain View is committed to working collaboratively to build better transportation solutions on the San Francisco Peninsula. We understand the desirability for cities on the Peninsula to reach general agreement on a transportation vision that will guide the Peninsula into the future.

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Mayor

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein January 25, 2011 Page 3

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January 25, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 112 Washington, D.C. 20510

RESETTING THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR CALTRAIN AND THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT ON THE SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA

#### Dear Senator Boxer:

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The Honorable Barbara Boxer January 25, 2011 Page 3

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January 25, 2011

The Honorable Elaine Alquist, 13th District State Capitol Building, Suite 4088 Sacramento, CA 95814

RESETTING THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR CALTRAIN AND THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT ON THE SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA

### Dear Senator Alquist:

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The Honorable Elaine Alquist January 25, 2011 Page 3

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City Council



Office of the Mayor and City Council • 500 Castro Street • Post Office Box 7540 • Mountain View, California 94039-7540 650-903-6305 • FAX 650-903-6039

January 25, 2011

The Honorable Anna Eshoo, 14th District 205 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515-0514

RESETTING THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR CALTRAIN AND THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT ON THE SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA

### Dear Representative Eshoo:

The City of Mountain View is committed to working collaboratively to build better transportation solutions on the San Francisco Peninsula. We understand the desirability for cities on the Peninsula to reach general agreement on a transportation vision that will guide the Peninsula into the future.

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The Honorable Anna Eshoo January 25, 2011 Page 3

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City Council



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January 25, 2011

The Honorable Paul Fong, 22nd District State Capitol, Suite 4162 Sacramento, CA 95814

RESETTING THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR CALTRAIN AND THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT ON THE SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA

Dear Assemblyman Fong:

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Mayor

The Honorable Paul Fong January 25, 2011 Page 3

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January 25, 2011

Board of Directors.

California High-Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

RESETTING THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR CALTRAIN AND THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT ON THE SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA

#### Dear Board of Directors:

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Board of Directors January 25, 2011 Page 3

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